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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, our shelter in the time of storm, You have guided our Nation through many seasons of danger and duress. In these challenging economic times, give our lawmakers the wisdom they need to make a positive difference in the lives of our citizens. Help them to see that without wise and prompt action, multitudes will face a future of privation and uncertainty.

Lord, use our Senators today to make America all You intend for it to be.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, October 18, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a

Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the second half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2112. The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today for our weekly caucus meetings. We will work on an agreement with respect to pending amendments to the appropriations bill that is now before the Senate. We will notify Senators when votes are scheduled. I hope we can process some amendments which are now pending. It is my understanding Senator MCCAIN is coming to offer a number of amendments. I look forward to working with Senator MCCONNELL and others to move the process along as quickly as we can.

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2250, H.R. 2273, S. 1720, S. 1723, and S. 1726

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand there are five bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2250) to provide additional time for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to issue achievable standards for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, process heaters, and incinerators, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 2273) to amend subtitle D of the Solid Waste Disposal Act to facilitate recovery and beneficial use, and provide for the proper management and disposal of materials generated by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels.

A bill (S. 1720) to provide American jobs through economic growth.

A bill (S. 1723) to provide for teacher and first responder stabilization.

A bill (S. 1726) to repeal the imposition of withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to each of those bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

### EDUCATION UNDER SIEGE

Mr. REID. Madam President, America's education system is literally under siege. This terrible recession we are involved in has put millions of families in our country in a desperate economic situation. It has also put our schools at risk.

Since 2008, we have lost 300,000 education jobs, including 200,000 in the last year alone. Without talented, dedicated teachers and support staff, our schools cannot provide the world-class education students need to succeed in today's difficult economic climate. As State and local governments are forced to slash education funding again and again, it jeopardizes the future of millions of children, regardless of where they live or how much money their parents make.

Nevada alone is facing a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall in 2011, practically ensuring further cuts to State and local education. But Nevada can ill afford to lose more teachers, police, and first responders. The State has already

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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